

SPINA BIFIDA PROGRAM FACT SHEET 01-12 For Outpatient Providers And Office Managers

What is the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program?

The Spina Bifida Healthcare Program is a federal health benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for birth children of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida. The Spina Bifida Healthcare Program is a Fee for Service (indemnity plan) program. The Spina Bifida Healthcare Program provides reimbursement for all conditions associated with spina bifida except spina bifida occulta.

How does the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program relate to CHAMPUS/TRICARE?

There is no relationship between the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program and CHAMPUS/TRICARE.

Is pre-authorization required for services?

Preauthorization is required for the following services:

- dental services,
- durable medical equipment,
- home care,
- mental health services,
- organ transplants,
- orthotics,
- prosthetics,
- rehabilitative services,
- respite care,
- substance abuse treatment,
- training of family members,
- travel (other than mileage for local travel).

How do I obtain pre-authorization approval?

Requests may be made by fax (303-331-7807) or in writing to the VA Health Administration Center, P.O. Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206-9025.

Do I need approvals for referrals to specialists or for diagnostic tests?

No.

What kind of case management and utilization review is performed?

Claims are reviewed to determine whether the medical care provided is related to spina bifida. Clinical reviews may also include review of durable medical equipment utilization; mental health/substance abuse services; physical, occupational, and speech therapy; home health care; hospice; inpatient skilled nursing services; and rehabilitation.

Is there a contract or agreement that I must sign to accept/participate in the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program?

No, the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program does not have contract providers. You must be properly licensed in your state to receive payment and not be on the MEDICARE exclusion list.

Do I have to accept the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program allowable rate?

Yes, under 38 CFR 17.903(c), providers must accept the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program allowable rate and cannot balance bill the patient.

How do I get a claim paid?

Send a HCFA 1500 to P.O. Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206-9025. This is the ONLY address for the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program. Don't use the address that you have for CHAMPUS/TRICARE. And remember, the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program is always a first payor.

What does the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program pay?


In most cases, the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program pays equivalent MEDICARE rates. There are no patient cost shares or deductibles.

How fast does the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program pay?

The Spina Bifida Healthcare Program normally pays 95 percent of claims within 30 days.

How do I know someone is the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program eligible?

Every Spina Bifida Healthcare Program beneficiary will have an identification card that looks similar to this one (some have a blue card, some a green card, and the logo may be the one on his sample or may be slightly different. Blue cards show a toll free 800 number, green cards—which are more current, show a toll free 888 number. **Either card is valid!**):

 Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration Center Spina Bifida Healthcare PO Box 65025, Denver CO 80206-9025		
Name		
A-Card Number		
Note: include A-Card Number on all claims and correspondence		
Effective Date	Expiration Date	Assistance 1-888-820-1756

How do I get more information?

- Check our web site at www.va.gov/hac, select Spina Bifida
- Write us at P.O. Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206-9025
- E-mail us at hac.inq@med.va.gov
- Call 1-888-820-1756, Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM and 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM Eastern Time.